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FREE

## Board of Supervisors Approves Sale of Community Garden Land

By Alison Fromme  
Neighborhood Environmental Newswire

On July 19 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved a plan to allow Potrero Hill homeowner Michael Lanza to buy city-owned land adjacent to his property.

In 2001, Lanza bought an Arkansas Street home and adjacent vacant lot between Arkansas and Connecticut Streets. The lot had no street access, and, according to city agencies, in order to build on it Lanza would need to establish access by paving a significant portion of the adjoining 22nd Street public right-of-way between the two streets, which is currently occupied by community gardens.

Lanza decided that he didn't want to construct a street through the gardens and build a house that would tower over other Connecticut Street homes, but he still wanted to expand his living space to better accommodate his 1-year-old son, wife, and her parents. "I'd like to have a bedroom for my son," Lanza said.

Lanza proposed different alternatives to paving over the community gardens and building on the interior lot, and, after many rounds of negotiations with close-by neighbors, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell brokered the current plan amidst opposition from some Potrero residents.

At the hearing, Supervisor Maxwell introduced the issue by saying, "I believe we have two choices before us today: we can approve the [plan], thereby allowing this project to move forward and protecting the open space in the back lot, protecting the community gardens into perpetuity, and funding improvements to the garden. Or we can reject the proposal, adding density to the neighborhood, los-

ing open space, and driving a road through the garden."

The Board of Supervisors vote allows Lanza to buy a 15-by-111-foot strip of the community gardens adjacent to his property. This parcel, plus the original two lots owned by Lanza, will be joined into one, effectively revoking his right to build another structure on the interior lot. An independent appraiser hired by the city determined that the value of the strip minus the value lost by combining all three lots was \$41,500.

The \$41,500 from the sale and an additional approximately \$54,500 pledged by Lanza will go towards community garden improvements, including paving the adjoining dirt path, installing security lighting, building a greenhouse, and providing compost bins.

"I would not call [the plan] a contentious issue, because contention implies that there has been a lot of opposition, but I will say that it has been a noisy issue, especially in the past six months," Potrero Hill resident Tony Kelly said during the hearing's public comment period.

Resident Dirk Hines, who supported the proposal, cited the plan's potential to reduce crime by adding security lighting, and neighbor Ann DuFrane read a letter of support signed by additional residents. Residents also thanked Supervisor Maxwell for her help in creating a compromise.

The hearing was unexpectedly lopsided, according to Lanza, because neighbors who had opposed the plan throughout negotiations didn't attend. "We've been talking about this for a long time, and we're really looking forward to moving ahead," he said.

The plan will now be sent to Mayor Gavin Newsom for approval.



The Connecticut Friendship Garden at 22nd Street between Arkansas and Connecticut streets.  
Abigail Johnston photo

## Land-Use Planning as Community Development

By Sophie Maxwell  
Supervisor, District 10

There's a change underway in the eastern neighborhoods.

Unlike the unregulated, private market storm of dot-com offices and live-work lofts that swept through Potrero Hill, South of Market, and the Mission in the late 1990s, these winds of change are initiated by the city: neighborhood plans sponsored by the San Francisco's Planning Department and Redevelopment Agency.

These neighborhood plans — for the Transbay Terminal, Rincon Hill, mid-Market, Bayview Hunters Point, and the "Eastern Neighborhoods Plan Area" (Showplace Square/Potrero Hill, Central Waterfront, South of Market, and Mission) — promise to reshape San Francisco for generations to come. Taken together, these planning efforts comprise a region of our city larger than the "urban renewal" areas in the Fillmore and South



Supervisor Sophie Maxwell

of Market of the 1960s and 1970s. And their impact could be equally profound.

As such, I believe that how we view our land use planning is a defining issue for San Francisco. Some people look at our city and see an opportunity for real estate development, as if we are a two-dimensional surface with lot lines, streets, and boundaries. As residents and as policy makers, that should not and can not be

our approach. Our first priority is not real estate development — it is community development.

We need to view land use planning as a tool, one that can be used to improve the lives of the residents who currently live in the neighborhood. In the eastern neighborhoods, a great number of families have lived in these communities for generations, many of them having immigrated to San Francisco in search of a better life. We should respect these families by creating land use plans that add value to their lives, with real community benefits, affordable housing and employment opportunities.

My colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and I have given our approval to the first of these land use plans, a Redevelopment Agency plan for the Transbay Terminal. The plan envisions a new multi-modal transit terminal on the site of the existing Transbay Terminal, an extension of the Caltrain line to the Terminal, and the development of nearby land into a vibrant, mixed-use transit-oriented neighborhood of nearly 3,400 housing units — of which over one-third will be affordable to very low, low, and

moderate-income households.

As chair of the Land Use Committee, I recommended numerous changes to the Transbay Plan, all of which were adopted by my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors. These changes included increased affordability levels for the new housing and a robust employment program for economically disadvantaged San Franciscans.

I believe that the adoption of the Transbay Plan was an important milestone for San Francisco. We established a development program that puts the needs of our residents first, establishing a benchmark for future plans to meet.

As this article goes to press, the Board of Supervisors is currently reviewing the Rincon Hill Plan, to be followed by land use plans for mid-Market, Bayview Hunters Point, and the eastern neighborhoods. With active community participation and leadership, we can partner to ensure that these efforts work for the benefit of existing residents. Our city's — and District 10's — future depends upon it.

See Page 2 for an article detailing the proposed legislation.

# 'Better Neighborhoods Plus'-How Planning Should Work

By Joe Boss

After years of failed rezoning efforts by San Francisco's Planning Department, members of the city's Board of Supervisors are legislating how the Department must process the large area neighborhood plans, and have introduced legislation called "Better Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Process," aka "Better Neighborhoods Plus."

Recognizing that citizen and stakeholder involvement in the three "Neighborhoods 2002" projects were inconsistent and the planning never finalized, Supervisors Jake McGoldrick, Sophie Maxwell and Ross Mirkarimi, cosponsored legislation that affects plans for the Central Waterfront, the Northeast Mission and Showplace Square.

Additionally, Showplace Square and other Eastern Neighborhood areas became targets for massive rezoning in response to the many housing projects proposed in these industrially zoned areas, but again, the processes have been very different. Rincon Hill is also being replanned, to turn the industrial lands between the Transbay Terminal at First and Mission, and the South Beach neighborhood (SBC Park) into a new residential neighborhood. In this case, developers offered to pay extra fees to make public benefit improvements that would turn the project area into a complete residential-friendly environment. Again this process has suffered from a lack of coordination, and the fee issue ended up being pushed to the Board of Supervisors, instead of being part of the Planning Department's work.

Better Neighborhoods Plus starts out with the Planning Department seeking public input on how community outreach should be handled. This includes developing an outreach strategy, identifying local stakeholders, preparing both a noticing scheme and a budget for that work. That plan is then reviewed in public meetings and adjusted according to the stakeholders' comments. Once consensus is reached on the Outreach plan, the Planning Commission will hold public hearings on the proposal.

The next step is executing the outreach and commencing public workshops to review the elements that need to be included in the plan preparation process. This starts with a current "needs" analysis that identifies existing shortfalls in infrastructure, such as water and sewer, transit

and open space. A comprehensive planning process is initiated. This will include different elements for the varying conditions in each neighborhood. The Central Waterfront might require a comprehensive Historic Resource analysis, while that might not be needed in the Geary Boulevard area. Open space may be adequate in one area but not another.

Unlike the current efforts, the legislation also mandates that the many city departments take an active role in developing the new area plans. Department of Public Works, Parking and Traffic, Transportation Authority, Police and Fire, SFPUC and so on are engaged in the process, rather than being reactive to a plan, as is most often the case.

Once a plan is on paper, the impacts of the new uses and densities are examined and strategies for paying for mitigating the needed changes are developed. These include impacts fees and utilization of existing funding sources, such as federal, state, and local transit programs. Other funding from special benefit districts would be considered. Density bonuses for creation of more housing units could be included, if the area supports the idea.

Another big change is the idea of starting the Environmental Impact Review prior to the completion of a plan, as is now the practice. This will serve to help inform the final programs and zoning.

Throughout the process, the Planning Department is held accountable in many new ways. Periodic progress reports to the public, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors will help everyone to stay informed and give the opportunity for input in the process. Budgeted money for the programs will be held by the Controllers Office and released with the completion of milestones identified at the beginning of the process. Records of progress in the work programs will be published and Planning will be held to a schedule.

Once the new Better Neighborhood program is completed and adopted, a citizen group called a Project Implementation Committee will be formed to help guide the city as new development occurs. Members of the group will be drawn from within the plan area. They will review projects for compliance with the adopted plan, as well as prioritize the public benefits for the area.

(Continued on Page 14)



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## Update on Nabe's Misbehaving Trees

Editor:

As reported in last month's View, the Department of Public Works held a public hearing at City Hall on Monday, June 27. Administrative Law Judge Olga Ryerson granted permission for the replacement of the seven Ficus Nitida trees located at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. While everyone would agree that the mature trees are great to look at, the robust root growth proved to be their downfall.

Fortunately, we have been successful in lining up a contractor, RAM Construction, who is donating the labor to remove and replace the sidewalk, and a generous donation of concrete from Bode Gravel and Cement. Since those contributions are worth about \$10,000, without replacing the trees, we would be facing the same problem in just a few years.

The Neighborhood House is soliciting donations for the six 36" box specimen trees, required as replacement by the Dept. of Urban Forest, which cost between \$500 and \$1,000 each. Plan and permit fees will add another \$1,000 to the total bill. The NABE will have a public meeting to help its Board decide the type of tree to use for the replacement.

The Neighborhood House has realized there was one significant cost we neglected to mention in last month's article. This cost is associated with the initial tree removal. The Neighborhood House has been informed that we must contract with a professional tree cutter, who is bonded and insured, to remove our trees, and as we began contacting these individuals, the cost has been staggering — \$1,000-\$1,500 per tree.

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is pleased to announce that during the month of July we received donations from the following individuals: Andy Steward of Cherokee Investment Partners (\$3,000); neighbor Aya Clear (\$500); and David Beckner of HC&M Commercial Properties (\$500).

These donations are sincerely welcomed and appreciated by all of us at the Neighborhood House and the clients we serve. However, an additional \$8,000 needs to be raised in order to make this project a reality.

Edward Hatter  
Executive Director  
Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

## Volunteers Needed to Visit Elderly

Editor:

I am the Director of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program in San Francisco. We utilize volunteers to visit the isolated and frail consumers in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Although federally and state mandated to monitor conditions in nursing homes and assisted living places, we must use members of the various communities and neighborhoods in San Francisco to regularly visit, and to monitor conditions.

It has been said that only those who are visited by family receive services, because staff is more responsive to those residents who have visitors. However, many elderly and disabled residents are not visited. They are lonely and isolated.

We need members of the community to provide monitoring visiting for about five hours a week. These prospective volunteers will receive free training to be an Ombudsman/Advocate. The program does not charge for our advocacy services, and we do not derive any income from providing our services.

We are looking for members of the diverse communities to volunteer to visit the elderly and disabled. It is challenging work but is rewarding. Reaching across the generations, reaching across to frail and disabled adults, to be their consumer advocates, is a keystone of honorable community service.

Please call 415-751-9788 for information on how to volunteer.

Benson Nadell  
Family Service Agency of S.F.  
S.F. Ombudsman Program

We welcome letters from our readers. Please send them to us at The Potrero View, 953 De Haro St., San Francisco, CA 94107, or e-mail them to editor@potrero.org. Letters must be signed and include a street address as well as a phone number.

Letters to the Editor are subject to editing for length and clarity.



## Have The Potrero View Delivered to You!



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## GETTING INVOLVED

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of each *even-numbered* month at 7 p.m., at 50 Tennessee Street. Next meeting: August 9.

PHAMB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th Streets. Visit [www.potrerohill.biz](http://www.potrerohill.biz). Next meeting: August 9.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents' Association) meets on the first Friday of the month in the playground behind the Potrero Hill Recreation Center at Madera and Arkansas streets at 12 noon. Next two meetings: August 5 and September 2.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time starting at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information visit [www.potrero boosters.org](http://www.potrero boosters.org) or call President Tony Kelly at 341-8040 or e-mail him at [president@potrero boosters.org](mailto:president@potrero boosters.org). Next meeting: August 30.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Call 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: August 28.

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month with members of the S.F. Police Dept. to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the community facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments served after the meeting. Next two meetings: August 4 and September 1.

SFGH Rebuild Updates, neighborhood meetings hosted by S.F. General Hospital every second Wednesday, 6-8 p.m., 2789 25th Street, Rooms 2001-2003. San Francisco must rebuild its only safety net hospital and trauma center in order to meet higher seismic safety mandates. Call 206-5784 for more info. Next meeting: August 10.

Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each *odd-numbered* month at 7 p.m., Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Next meeting: September 20. Volunteer for the Park work days continue *every* month on the third Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Next work day: August 20 at the park, Carolina Street, south of 23rd. Mail: Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, S.F., CA 94188-0293. Call 810-4900 for more information.

### Traffic Calming Improvements

## One Down, One to Go

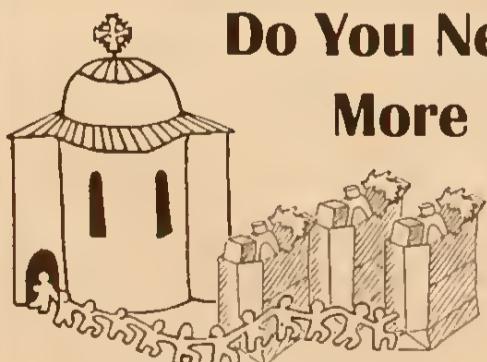
Bicyclists, pedestrians, and residents along Potrero Avenue are celebrating on Saturday, August 13. Traffic calming improvements have already produced new median islands, bike lanes, a dedicated Muni lane, reduced car traffic lanes from 17th Street to the freeway maze, and turning restrictions at 25th and 23rd Streets. Further pedestrian safety enhancements still in the works include countdown signals and a midblock crossing in front of San Francisco General Hospital.

Our joy is tempered with sadness, however, as we also remember Elizabeth Dominguez, who was killed in 2003 a few months before her fifth birthday by a Muni truck on the sidewalk at 24th and Potrero. On the 13th, we will gather at noon at the Comfort Garden at San Francisco General Hospital, 22nd Street and Potrero (northeast corner), to dedicate a plant for Elizabeth in the garden created

in 1990 for remembrance of hospital workers who have died. We'll proceed down Potrero to Potrero del Sol Park (aka Raza Park and The Farm) between 25th and Cesar Chavez for a party at 12:30. All are invited!

At the same time, neighbors and activists are kicking off similar efforts for Cesar Chavez, starting with the eastern stretch that forms the southern border of Potrero Hill. The first community meeting will take place at the Bernal Gateway Apartments, 3101 Mission at Cesar Chavez, in the community room. The meeting will be at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, August 2. If you want to be involved but can't come to this meeting, please contact Andy Thornley at the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition: [andy@sfbike.org](mailto:andy@sfbike.org) or 415-431-BIKE x307.

— Fran Taylor



## Do You Need More Food For Your Family?

Free groceries &  
fresh produce  
every Friday, 3-5 p.m.,

at St. Gregory's Food Pantry, 500 De Haro Street.  
All are welcome — no forms to fill out.  
Also open last Sunday of every month, 2-4 p.m.  
For info call 415-255-8100

## Governor's Politics of Deception Carries Heavy Price

By Mark Leno  
Assemblyman, 13th District

When Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced in his first State of the State address in January 2004 that he would be an agent of change by "blowing up the boxes," few Californians likely realized how destructive he intended to be.

Clearly, his "box" analogy was meant to indicate his desire to end business as usual in Sacramento — an appropriate message for a new governor elected as the result of a recall election. As a candidate, the promises our governor made certainly made him sound like a reformer. In a time of fiscal turmoil, he assured us that he would not "spend more money than the state takes in." Challenging an incumbent reviled for his insatiable fund raising, candidate Schwarzenegger proclaimed, "Here's how it works. Money goes in. Favors go out. The people lose." Referring to the vitriolic atmosphere in the state capitol he repeated, "What I mean by negative is: I will never attack anyone personally." Most memorable are the campaign television commercials in which he looked directly into the camera and declared, "The most important thing is to be honest with the people."

Let's assess the first 19 months of the new administration. On his first day in office, Gov. Schwarzenegger essentially spent over \$4 billion the state did not have when he rescinded the vehicle license fee, in place for 63 years, a tax cut on which we are presently paying interest. In fact, the approximate \$5 billion deficit that our nonpartisan Legislative Analyst projects we will face in 2006-07 will have been created entirely by that inaugural accomplishment.

Then there is our governor's fund-raising prowess. He has scaled never before imagined heights — approximately \$40 million in the last year and a half — providing direct and exclusive access to his office for those who contribute six figures or more. Indeed, the people lose.

Personal attacks? Having been called untrustworthy, thieving children, losers,

evil and girlie men, my legislative colleagues and I will just smile when the next insult is hurled. The most important thing is to be honest with the people. Unfortunately, that pledge was in one of those exploded boxes.

With Gov. Schwarzenegger's second State of the State address came the promise of a special election to put before voters a series of initiatives. Polls indicate that the public is strongly against this election



Assemblyman Mark Leno

and even more strongly opposed to its cost. Knowing that there is minimal support for the governor's package of ballot proposals, his political operatives shared with their top donors that the game plan would be to create a "phenomenon of anger" through the upcoming campaign. Within days, Gov. Schwarzenegger had hit the road to sell his ideas to the populace.

Curiously, there was little talk of any of his initiatives to his audiences. Instead, he wasted no time in stirring up that anger. Rather than explain his "reform agenda" comprised of teacher tenure, mid-decade redistricting and wider control

(Continued on Page 10)

## Who are your neighbors?



## Connect with your community.

Foster community by working on a collaborative art piece reflecting the diversity of Potrero Hill. The art will be shown at a fundraising event for the Neighborhood House on September 16th.

### Potluck Dinners and Discussions:

Thursdays August 11th & 25th @ 6:30pm  
Neighborhood House (Southern Heights + De Haro)

<http://arts.potrerohillsf.com/>

Contact Deborah at 647-7321 or [dereed@mindspring.com](mailto:dereed@mindspring.com) for further information.

Join the Potrero Hill Community Arts Project!

## LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH  
1616 20th St. / 355-2822

Closed Sunday and Monday  
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm  
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm  
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm  
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



Looking for ways to get involved in the neighborhood? Read on to learn more about some intriguing library-related opportunities:

### ART FOR THE RENOVATED BRANCH LIBRARY

The San Francisco Arts Commission is seeking Potrero Hill residents interested in serving on the Potrero Branch Community Artist Selection Panel, which will meet three times over a four or five month period to select an artist to create an artwork to be incorporated into the renovated Potrero Branch Library. Three community representatives will be elected to serve on the panel by Potrero residents on September 14 at the Potrero Branch Library.

Residents interested in applying to participate on this panel must complete an application form, which is available at the Potrero Branch Library or on the Arts Commission website at [www.sfmtartscommission.org/pubart/](http://www.sfmtartscommission.org/pubart/). Completed applications must be submitted to the Arts Commission offices no later than Friday, September 2. Only those individuals who have submitted a completed application form by this deadline will be eligible.

The election to select the three community representatives for the Potrero Branch Community Artist Selection Panel will be held at the Potrero Branch Library on September 14, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. when voting ballots will be available for completion. All adult Potrero residents are eligible to vote.

For additional information about the Potrero Branch artist selection process, please call Judy Moran, Art Commission Public Art Project Manager, at 415-252-2586.

### POTRERO BRANCH USER NEEDED FOR LIBRARY COUNCIL

The Council of Neighborhood Libraries is an organization of San Francisco library users who volunteer their time to represent and express the interests of their neighborhoods to the San Francisco Pub-

lic Library administration and who also support the work of the Library. We are looking for a second representative for the Potrero Hill neighborhood on this Council. If you are interested in knowing more about this or have questions, please contact me at the branch at 415-355-2855.

### AUTHOR NIGHT AT THE POTRERO LIBRARY

Talented young local artists from Youth Speaks will demonstrate the power of the spoken word through their poetry on Wednesday, August 10, 6:30 p.m. Teens and adults are welcome!

### SUMMER READING CLUB FOR CHILDREN

For children up through age 13, there's still time: this year's "Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds" Summer Reading Club runs through August 6. For those who are signed up, please bring in your reading logs to claim your reading prizes. Stop by the library for more details.

### AUGUST CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Come for an evening of magic and comedy featuring Magician Gerald Joseph on Tuesday, August 2 at 7 p.m. For children of all ages. Thanks to funding from the Friends of the Library for making this program possible.

And here is a list of our weekly programs:

Infant/toddler Lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, August 4, 18, and 25 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.

Evening films on Tuesday, August 9 at 7 p.m.: *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash, Picnic, and Foolish Frog*. For ages 3 up.

Evening storytime on Tuesdays, August 23 and 20 at 7 p.m. For ages 3 and older.

Please note: All library programs are free. Meeting room is not accessible by elevator. Groups, please call in advance for reservations.

Jensa Woo  
Potrero Branch Library Manager



### The View at the Library

If you are searching for a story that ran in *The Potrero View* a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through 2000. Also at the library are unbound back issues from 2001 to the present. All these materials are available for use at the library.

# TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

**HILL PARKS GET A "C" GRADE.** A report card on the city's neighborhood parks by the Parent Advocates for Youth gave an average but passing grade to Potrero Hill's parks and playgrounds. The group looked at children's programs, what facilities are offered, safety, maintenance, gang and drug activity, and graffiti. The report noted that facilities in the more affluent districts got a higher rating, when parents and others in the community were involved in park issues and activities. The report recommended improved restrooms and water fountains for Jackson Park, and that Potrero Rec Center's play structure needs to be modernized to satisfy current safety standards.

**SFGH WOULD BE HARD HIT BY THE GOP "CONTRACT WITH AMERICA."** Cuts in health and welfare spending proposed in the "Contract With America" proposed by the new Republican majority in Congress would have serious repercussions, according to statistics showing that 30 percent of the city's population live in poverty or near it, and would be affected by the proposals to stop direct federal funding for social service and health programs. Cuts in Medicaid would result a \$100 million loss in 2002 to San Francisco General Hospital.

**POTRERO VIEW CELEBRATES ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY.** The Potrero View, the oldest monthly neighborhood newspaper in San Francisco, was founded 25 years ago. A completely volunteer project, unaffiliated with any other institution, either on or off the Hill, it grew from a flimsy four-page sheet to a paper of 16 pages – sometimes more. The paper has reflected the many changes in the neighborhood. In 1970 there was no Showplace Square at the foot of the hill, no Parkview Heights at the other end, no Victoria Mews or 18th and Arkansas development tucked in the middle and the PG&E tanks were prominent on the skyline to the east and to the south. The View has reported hundred of stories that reflect the active role the residents of Potrero Hill play in their community and citywide.

**NEIGHBORS OF PAINT FACTORY VOICE THEIR CONCERNS.** Neighbors of the paint warehouse that burned on May 19 are concerned about the health effects of the fire, and press for a speedy cleanup of the area. Three buildings on Missouri Street, behind the site of the fire, were of the most concern. The paint company owner, Jim Fregosi, and the insurance company have hired a community liaison, Steve Davis of Health Science Associates, to deal with the neighbors' complaints, chiefly getting the area cleaned up and the debris covered, and enabling neighbors suffering from various symptoms to have a medical examination paid for by the insurance.

**THREE HILL ARTISTS TO SHOW AT PRESTIGIOUS CRAFT FAIR.** Doug Anderson, a ceramicist, Julie Mira Berniker, who knits one-of-a-kind sweaters, and Ahna, who designs and fabricates reversible neckties in bold primary colors, were among 12 from San Francisco who were chosen in the juried competition, for display at the Pacific States Craft Fair at Fort Mason.

**NEW LIFE FOR POTRERO HILL CLINIC IN PRIMARY CARE NETWORK.** The Caleb Clark Potrero Hill Health Center was officially transferred July 1 from SF General Hospital's budget to another Department of Public Health division, Community Public Health Services, offering front-line, office-based health care, as opposed to subspecialty-oriented, hospital-based, secondary health care or intensive tertiary care.

**AND TWENTY YEARS AGO . . .** Many San Franciscans sighed with relief when Robert Alioto ended his 10-year stint as Superintendent of Schools; a nationwide search was instituted for his replacement . . . S.F. Sheriff Michael Hennessey awarded a Certificate of Commendation to the Potrero View . . . Three parishioners of St. Teresa's Church were members of a caravan aiding refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala . . . Rep Sala Burton joined the opposition to the homeporting of the battleship USS Missouri in San Francisco . . . Dr. Video announced the opening of its store on 18th Street . . .

— Bernie Gershater



### The Wandering Tattler

Claire Huyssenruyt of Missouri Street and Amanda Irion of Tennessee Street, both senior members of the San Francisco Girls Chorus, departed for Japan July 25 for several performances. Look for Amanda's journal reports in the Chronicle soon. Amanda's father, by the way, is Christopher Irion who took all the photographs for Farley's 15th anniversary windows and walls last year and her stepmother is Susan Eslick of the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association . . . And speaking of Farley's: It's been voted "Best Independent Coffeehouse" in the Bay Guardian's annual readers' poll of "The Best of The Bay." Other local-or-nearly-so winners include ODC/San Francisco, 3153 17th Street (Best Dance Company), Boogaloos, 3296 22nd Street (Best Brunch), and Atlas

Café, 3049 20th Street (Best Café) . . . Wisconsin Street's Mike Lin has created a neighborhood blog. Joe Bob says check it out: [www.potrerohillsf.com](http://www.potrerohillsf.com) . . . Excitement in Baja Potrero Hill. A Will Smith movie is being filmed right around York and 24th streets. According to an on-the-scene spy, Hollywood types are constantly coming into St. Francis Fountain, "acting all rude and entitled and L.A.-like," but ordering many bucks worth of milkshakes. Overheard: One H'wood-type to another, "We're going to have to plaster over all the Latino signs," apparently in the belief that way back in 1981, when the film's story takes place, the Mission was all Irish and Italian . . . And speaking of Irish and Italian, the lives and good works of St. Teresa's beloved Sisters Kathleen (Irish) and Lucia (Italian) were celebrated on July 30 at the Irish Cultural Center, out on Sloat Boulevard across the street from S.F.'s one standing Diner Doggie . . . Best wishes to Trish Keady of Christopher's Books who is off to law school this fall, and to Abe of M&M Market on Rhode Island Street who has been ailing . . . Send tasty crumbs of gossip or whatever to [Wtattler@potreroview.net](mailto:Wtattler@potreroview.net)

# Identity Theft: Fastest Growing Crime in U.S.

By "Hawkeye"

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in our nation today, and California is fourth in identity theft, according to the Federal Trade Commission, which receives 1000 calls a week.

You are a victim of identity theft when someone obtains key pieces of your information, such as your Society Security number or driver's license number, to use for his or her own personal gain. The thief can obtain money from your accounts, open new credit and checking accounts, apply for loans, rent apartments, or even commit crimes – using your identity.

## How Identity Theft Occurs

**Dumpster Diving:** When consumers discard documents containing personal information such as pre-approved credit offers, "courtesy" checks (MasterCard, VISA, etc.), and filled out applications without destroying them, the thief can steal the information from your trash.

This can also happen when a business dumps papers containing customers' information (such as loan applications) without shredding them – a "dumpster

dive" may retrieve this information from the business' dumpster (trash container). The thief can sell the information or use it to obtain credit in the consumer's name. Effective January 2001, businesses must destroy or arrange for the destruction of customer records that contain personal information when records are no longer to be retained.

**Mail Theft:** Thieves go through peoples' mailboxes and steal delivered mail or mail left for the postal carrier to pick up.

**Lost or Stolen Wallets:** A thief may steal from office buildings and restaurants; women who hang their purses on the back of their chairs are particularly vulnerable. There are pickpockets who work in crowded areas, especially on public transportation.

**Eavesdropping:** Thieves listen to conversations made on cell phones, faxes, or e-mail, hacking into computers from telephone and e-mail scams, careless online shopping and banking.

**Stealing Information:** Thieves get information from loan or credit applications you fill out from files at a hospital, bank, school, or businesses you deal with.

(Continued on Page 19)

## Hats Off to Enola!



Come and celebrate the life and legacy of Enola D. Maxwell, a woman who truly had the spirit of a warrior and the gift to unify a community.

Take your hats off and join us for this spirited occasion and enjoy good food, music, friends, and great fun.

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# BEFORE THE INTERNET



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## GOP Pattern of Abuse in House Is Damaging Our Democracy

By Nancy Pelosi  
House Democratic Leader

In a democracy, the sound of silence is perhaps the most dangerous sound of all.

In June, Republicans shut off the microphones and turned off the lights, even as Democratic Members of Congress and expert witnesses sought to examine the merits of reauthorizing provisions of the complicated and controversial USA Patriot Act in a hearing of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives.

It is ironic, but not surprising, that at a hearing on the impact of the Patriot Act on civil liberties, the Republicans attempted to suppress free speech. This silencing of opposition voices, rather than being an isolated event, is part of the ongoing pattern of Republican abuse of power. With Republicans in control of the Congress, it is becoming clearer each day that they have no desire to engage in reasoned debate or a search for common ground. The Republican power grab has turned the House of Representatives, the people's house created by our forefathers to be a marketplace of ideas, into a democracy-free zone.

This spring, Rep. Louise Slaughter, the top Democrat on the Rules Committee, released an in-depth report that demonstrated how under Republican rule, floor debate is muzzled, votes are cast with fear of retribution, and legitimate amendments never see the light of day. In a nation that is so closely divided politically and electorally, shutting out the voices of Democrats effectively disenfranchises half the country.

For several months earlier this year, the Senate was preoccupied by the Republicans' effort to end the filibuster — the most powerful tool in our government for protecting the rights of the minority — as they sought to confirm judges whose views and records were so extreme that Democrats had no choice but to object.



Representative Nancy Pelosi

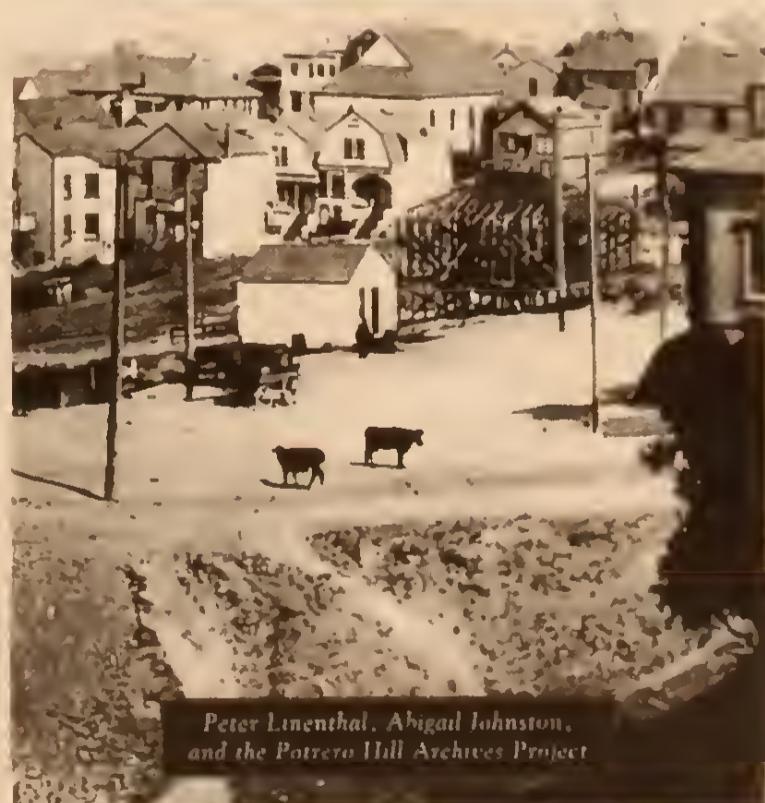
And Republicans have gone so far as to threaten judges already on the bench with whom they disagree, again trying to intimidate voices of dissent into silence. In referring to judicial decisions in the Terri Schiavo case, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay went so far as to say: "The time will come for the men responsible for this to answer for their behavior."

(Continued on Page 18)

## Coming Soon—Very Soon! To a Bookstore Near You!

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Peter Linenthal, Abigail Johnston,  
and the Potrero Hill Archives Project

Christopher's Books expects THE BOOK to arrive on or about August 15! Avoid the stampede and order your copy today by calling Christopher's at 255-8802. Better yet, order two -- it's only \$19.95! Two years in the making, *Images of America: San Francisco's Potrero Hill* tells the story of the Hill with more than 220 historic images from the days of the Ohlones to the present. See page 12 for a sneak preview.



## Goat Hill Pizza

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## The Joy of Being a Footnote

By Chuck Elkind

I remember Paul Desmond. Indeed, we crossed paths well ahead of his name change from Paul Breitenfeld, and before he became the focal performer in the Dave Brubeck Quartet.

We played in San Francisco high school groups of wannabe jazz stars, and shortly after World War II, in Steve Saccos' swinging Mission District band.

These brief encounters, however, gave few hints of what lay ahead for this gifted, fey and highly imaginative young artist. The full account of his epic odyssey to the pinnacles of the jazz world are revealed in the recently-published biography, *Take Five*, a remarkable tome crafted by journalist and jazz maven, Doug Ramsey.

The book amply depicts the agony and ecstasy that Desmond underwent as he coped with the difficulties of maintaining artistic integrity, the intricacies of improvisation and the evolution of his unique alto sax sound.

In the early days, an admiring cohort described the Desmond sound as "cream music," whereas Desmond said he strove to "get the alto to sound like a dry martini." (Later he aimed for a "Three Martini" sound.)

A brilliant exponent of the jazz idiom, Desmond also was a droll lower-case intellectual, always poised to debunk the term

"background music" as an oxymoron.

Although he always spoke of writing a novel, he never followed through. But he rubbed shoulders with many of New York's literati for the 20 years he lived in mid-Manhattan until his death in 1977.

In the midst of the book's engrossing narrative — page 175, to be exact — I was delighted to read that "to Desmond, bassist Norm Bates and drummer Joe Dodge being together may have reminded them of the time in 1948 when they played for the wedding of their trombonist friend [the author of this article] Chuck Elkind. Except that the pianist was Bob Skinner, it was a preview of the new Brubeck Quartet."

This *Take Five* reference, however, fails to include what ensued. That is, the foursome got the marriage off to a rocky start when pianist Skinner, playing "The Wedding March," stumbled after the first few bars and then jammed his way through the rest of it.

The attendees' reaction was immediate — and divided. The strait-laced segment was visibly scandalized by what they considered an outrageous gaffe. But the others were delighted by the innovative departure from the traditional melody line.

Chuck Elkind's marriage not only got off to a rocky start, it has remained Rockie to this day. (Those in the know will get it.)



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**SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY.** All events are free and open to the public and take place at the Main Library (unless stated otherwise), 100 Larkin Street at Grove. For more information call 415-557-4277 or visit [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

**The Hetch Hetchy Water System: Past, Present, and Future.** This exhibition of historic and contemporary photographs, documents and artifacts illustrates the early 20th century genesis of San Francisco's 167-mile water and hydro-power system, its unfailing service to today's 2.4 million Bay Area consumers, and tomorrow's challenges, directions and opportunities. Through August 18.

**Our Rights as Human Beings.** A 1949 photo exhibition explaining the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. Through August 11.

**Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945.** Through some 250 photographs and documents, this exhibit (organized by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum) examines the rationale, means, and impact of the Nazi regime's attempt to eradicate homosexuality that left thousands dead and shattered the lives of many more. Also on display, rare materials from S.F. collector Gerald Koskovich documenting the work of German gay rights pioneer, Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, and the destruction of his institute and library by the Nazis. Exhibition runs through August 18.

**Digging Deep: Underneath San Francisco Public Library.** Featuring archaeological remains dug up prior to the building of the library, this exhibit continues through the summer.

**Manilatown Heritage Celebration.** Community celebration and screening of the film, *Rise of the I-Hotel*. Saturday, August 6, 2 p.m.



**INSECT AND BUTTERFLY MOUNTING INSTRUCTION.** Learn how to mount both beetles and butterfly specimens during this lecture and hands-on activity. A complete kit, including the basic tools needed and some specimens will be provided for this training session at a cost of \$60 plus tax. As space is limited, the class will be made available on a first come, first served basis. Paxton Gate, 824 Valencia Street, Sunday, August 7, 2 p.m.



#### POTRERO HILL COMMUNITY

**ARTS PROJECT.** Planning sessions and pot luck dinners are on the schedule for an art show and fundraising event at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. Prior to the fundraiser, scheduled for September, you'll have an opportunity to be in on the planning alongside other neighbors and residents of Potrero Hill. Bring your ideas, talents, and something to eat or drink to the Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street, on Thursdays, August 11 and 25 at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 415-647-7321 or visit [www.arts.potrerohillsf.com](http://www.arts.potrerohillsf.com).



**THIRD THURSDAYS WITH BROOKLYN WEST.** Hosted by artist Fred Rinne, Third Thursdays are free and open to the public at the Center for the Book, 300 De Haro Street. These events will parallel Brooklyn East's longtime salons, providing a place for book artists and the general public to explore innovative practices and ideas in bookmaking. Underground Comix hero, Spain Rodriguez, appears with his legendary sketchbooks on Thursday, August 18, 7-9 p.m.



By Mary Wasserman

**FARLEY'S COFFEE HOUSE.** 1315 18th Street, open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. All events are free and open to the public. For more information call 415-648-1545, or visit [newsletter@farleyscoffee.com](mailto:newsletter@farleyscoffee.com).

**Window Display.** This month's window display features "Airplane John's" collection of die cast metal airplanes among them, WW II fighters, bombers, airliners and helicopters. All are built to scale and recall times past.

**Artist of the Month.** Lisa Feather Knee displays her paintings expressing her passion for the natural world. Reception for the artist Friday, August 5, 7 p.m.

**Live Music.** Cory Combs and friends, newly returned from an extended tour and studio work, entertain on Saturday, August 13 2 p.m.

**More Live Music.** Windows/Windows, a neo-folk group with tones of world music, sensitive lyrics, and all original tunes play on Thursday, August 18, 7 p.m.

**Little Peoples Day.** Bring your babies and young ones for a morning of fun with Enzo, who plays music for and with little people. Friday, August 26, 10:30 a.m.



**DOGPATCH AND POTRERO POINT TOUR.** Designated as a San Francisco Historic District, the Dogpatch neighborhood has important ties to the city's past commercial industries. This tour will explore the past and present of this surprising, eclectic neighborhood in transition, from its historic working class cottages and industrial age relics to the current proliferation of ultra-modern lofts. Sunday, August 7, and the first Sunday of each month through October. Tour meets at 11 a.m. at the corner of 18th and Tennessee streets, covers about 1.3 miles, completely flat, and takes about 2 hours. Tour is free, but a donation of \$5 per person to SF City Guides is suggested. For more information call 415-550-8082 or visit [www.natwls@alumni.duke.edu](http://www.natwls@alumni.duke.edu)



**PERCEPTIONS/PERCEPCIONES.** An exhibit opening at SomArts on August 4, features works by four women artists — two American, two Mexican — all working with different visual attitudes toward the act of perception and speaking across borders. The show runs through August 25, with an opening reception on Thursday, August 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the South of Market gallery, 934 Brannan Street, between Eighth and Ninth streets, in San Francisco.



**FREE ADULT VISION SCREENING.** Get your eyes screened for glaucoma and other vision problems Tuesday, August 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Prevent Blindness Northern California, 1388 Sutter Street (between Van Ness and Franklin), Suite 408. The screening takes only about ten to fifteen minutes and could save your sight. Please call 415-567-7500 to make an appointment; appointments are necessary to prevent long waits.

**ART SHOW AT GOAT HILL.** Artist Michael Perry will display his paintings at Goat Hill Pizza, 18th and Connecticut streets, throughout August and September. Perry's work is non-traditional in nature with emphasis on brush strokes and surfaces of paint. A reception for the artist will be held on Sunday, August 7, 1-3 p.m.



**SAN FRANCISCO'S NOE VALLEY.** Bill Yenne will conduct a visual presentation based on his book *Images of America: San Francisco's Noe Valley* at the monthly meeting of the San Francisco History Association, Tuesday, August 23; the book will be available for sale and signing. The meeting will be held at the Mission Dolores School Auditorium, 16th and Church Streets. Doors open at 7 p.m. for light refreshments before the meeting begins at 8 p.m. There is a \$5 admission fee for non-members. Yenne's book is in the same series (published by Arcadia) as Peter Linenthal and Abigail Johnston's soon-to-be released history of Potrero Hill (see announcement on page 5).



**RANDALL MUSEUM.** 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above Castro and 14th Streets). Museum hours are Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free. For information call 415-554-9600 or visit [www.randallmuseum.org](http://www.randallmuseum.org).

**Bufano Sculpture Tours.** The Randall Museum has become home to eight giant sculptures by the San Francisco sculptor, Benny Bufano. Free tours of the exhibit, located in the museum's Outdoor Learning Environment area, are conducted the first and third Saturdays of the month, August 6 and 20, 10:15 A.M.

**Endless Energy-Power for a Small Planet** is an interactive exhibition exploring renewable energy options on display through October 22. Designed for children 5-12, this innovative exhibition offers visitors a variety of hands-on activities and colorful displays providing information on how to make real choices for renewable energy.

**Astronomy Day and Night.** Astronomy enthusiasts of all ages are invited to join in as local professional and amateur astronomers gather for a day of astronomy lectures, demonstrations and family activities, and a night of stargazing through an impressive array of telescopes. Other daytime activities include sun-viewing through safe solar telescopes, make and take art projects for kids and journeys into the Randall's inflatable planetarium Saturday, August 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and 7-10 p.m.

**Drop-In Art and Science Workshops.** Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. \$3 per child, \$5 per child/parent combo. August 6, Japanese Fish Prints, August 13, Wire Mobiles, August 20, Glue Rubbings and Watercolor.

**CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.** 875 Howard Street between Fourth and Fifth streets. Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: adults \$7; youth 12-17; students with ID and seniors \$4.50; children 4-12 \$2; members, children under 3, and first Wednesdays free.

Ongoing Exhibits:

**African Penguin Colony.** Feeding times 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. every day.

**Coral Reef Caretaking.** A twenty minute display of tank cleaning and feeding of the anemones and fish. Wednesdays, August 4, 10, 17, 24, 2:30 p.m.

**Touch Tidepool.** Visitors can touch and handle the animals that live along the California coastline. Every day.

**Third Thursdays.** Filled with cocktails, conversation, clownfish, and corals, the Academy after-hours is the place to be on the third Thursday of every month. Explore exhibits and aquarium displays while listening to live music and enjoying a no-host bar. Thursday, August 18, 5-9 p.m., \$5 admission.

**So Much Chocolate, So Little Time.** The Chocolate Festival Continues. Enjoy a full day of celebrating the taste and culinary history of chocolate with demonstrations, tastings and activities for the whole family. Learn about traditional medicinal uses of cacao, cocoa powder and cocoa butter in skin care products, and the role of birds and roaches in the cocoa ecosystem. Saturday, August 20, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



#### THE SAN FRANCISCO MIME

**TROUP.** In a departure from their typical farcical style, the San Francisco Mime Troup performs *Doing Good*, a play based upon John Perkin's book, *Confessions of an Economic Hit-Man*, a drama which raises questions about the characters' moral dilemmas in trying to "do good". Four free performances are scheduled in the City during the month of August. Unless otherwise stated, the performances begin with a musical interlude at 1:30 p.m. and the drama at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, August 3, Civic Center, music at noon, show at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, August 6, Glen Park, at Bosworth and O'Shaughnessy streets; Sunday, August 7, Washington Square Park, Columbus and Union streets; Saturday, August 20, Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. For more information call 415-285-1717 or visit [www.sfmt.org](http://www.sfmt.org).



**STERN GROVE.** Free concerts at the Grove, 19th Avenue at Sloat Boulevard, Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. For more information visit [www.sterngrove.org](http://www.sterngrove.org).

**Waldemar Bastos,** "The Voice of Angola," who has gained worldwide recognition for his soulful singing, evocative lyricism, and blend of Brazilian, Portuguese, and African music, will appear on the same stage as Maria de Barros of Senegal who mixes African, Cuban, Spanish, and Portuguese rhythms with sultry vocals. Sunday, August 7.

**BeauSoleil Avec Michael Doucet and the Dirty Dozen Band.** Enjoy an afternoon of the best in Cajun music from these two groups who combine traditional zydeco with combinations of Tex-Mex, folk, brass band, R&B, funk, rock, gospel and even Caribbean rhythms. Sunday, August 14.

**daKah Hip Hop Orchestra.** A unique 75-piece ensemble closes the season with its innovative blend of urban music and classical instrumentation. Joining the orchestra will be the winners of the annual Youth Speaks Poetry Slam. Sunday, August 21.



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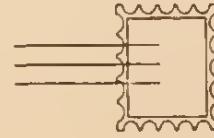
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This is the "Papa" II, a hand-made solid graphite sculpture by Agelio Batle.

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Two artists with studios on Potrero Hill will be exhibiting and selling their work at the American Craft Council San Francisco Show at Fort Mason, August 12-14. Above, left, solid graphite sculpture by Agelio Batle and, right, Patrick Meyer's silver serving utensils.

## Hill Artists at Crafts Show

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, the American Craft Council San Francisco Show is back at the Fort Mason Center from Friday, August 12 through Sunday, August 14. And, with more than 300 artists showing their works, collectors and craft enthusiasts will enjoy perusing the new and one-of-a-kind unique pieces of art.

Two artists with studios on Potrero Hill, mixed-media sculptural artist Agelio Batle and Patrick Meyer, crafter of metal functional accessories, artists showing and selling their work at this year's show.

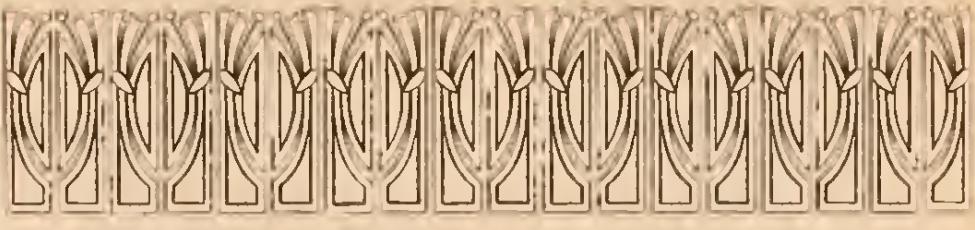
The largest juried craft show in the West, the American Craft Council's 30th anniversary show includes jewelry; clothing and accessories; furniture; quilts and both sculptural and functional objects

made of clay, fiber, glass, metal and wood.

New to the show this year, alumni from California College of Arts display their work for exhibit only.

Admission for one day is \$10 and \$16 for a two-day pass. The show is held at the Herbst and Festival Pavilions at Fort Mason Center in San Francisco, located between Fisherman's Wharf and the Golden Gate Bridge on San Francisco Bay. The entrance is at the intersection of Marina Blvd. and Buchanan Street. Paid valet parking is available or visitors may park offsite and take the complimentary shuttle.

For more information call the American Craft Council at 1-800 836-3470 or visit [www.craftcouncil.org](http://www.craftcouncil.org)



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# Performing Arts Roundup

By Sandhya Dirks

In the world of the arts, San Francisco is truly European. Now that is kind of a given, considering our cultural wealth, the diversity of performers, and the liberal undercurrent that exists, sometimes not so hidden, in our artistic output. But there is another way in which we echo the continent. Apparently our artists, just like the French, take August off. Yup, that's right. Artists are heading out to their country homes leaving the hoi-poloi with a dearth of theater, music, and butoh! We will have to hold our breath until September, when the arts community returns — refreshed and ready to entertain and make us think to our hearts' content. But there is good news, your intrepid reporter has searched under rocks and behind buildings to bring you a few good ways to get your cultural fix in August.



## Not a Genuine End

A college student, needing just a skosh more time to finish an assignment, would plotz for a professor like The Marsh. Brian Copland has received yet another extension of his one-man show *Not a Genuine Black Man*. Despite the many times the show has been extended, it still has not been around longer than *Cats*. But the comparison to Sondheim stops there — this show explores racism and Bay Area history with humor and intelligence — something that a musical whose characters communicate through purring can't quite compete with. The continuing extensions of this show might mean that it's good, and that people want to see it — maybe more than once. If you've been thinking about seeing the show, and haven't made it yet, consider this a stay of execution, and get to The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street, through August 27. Showtimes are Thursdays and Fridays at 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15-22. For more information call 415-826-5750 or visit [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).



## Art Objects

What do a Japanese tea set, a tablecloth, sand, brown paper, and an old suitcase, have in common? For most of us they are the stuff stored in attics, garden sheds, and basements, or perhaps what we place on the curb for an annual tag sale. But in hands of Liebe Wetzel's ensemble Lunatique Fantastique, they are the props that take us into the story of one family's forced evacuation from their home in Berkeley to Topaz, Utah during World War II. To see how these ordinary objects form the material matter for this story, see *Executive Order 9066* at The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street, August 6 through 28, Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15-22, for information call 415-826-5750 or visit [www.lunfan.com](http://www.lunfan.com).

## It Takes Four to Tango



Bay Area-based filmmaker Auriel premieres *Tango Con\*Fusión: The Documentary* on Sunday, August 28. It used to take "two to tango" (one man, one woman), but the all-female dance company, Tango Con\*Fusión, bends the gender-related customs and traditions of this century-old dance. Auriel's documentary tracks the company during its first year and profiles its artists. One night only, with a champagne reception at 6:45 p.m. First showing of the film will be at 7:30, followed by a discussion, live performance, and a dance party; a second showing is scheduled for 10:45 p.m. ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street. Tickets: \$20 advance (call 415-863-9834); \$25 at the door.

Tango Con\*Fusión dancers, from left to right: Pier Voulkos, Debbie Goodwin, Chelsea Eng, Christy Cote. *John Campbell photo*

## Trailer Trash

Mary Jo Pritchard's *Trailer Town* is the story of a small community that lives in, get this, a trailer park next to an abandoned roadside attraction. Their cozy life, isolated from reality, is threatened when a slick land developer comes in with plans to bulldoze the park and build a golf course. The misfit residents band together to save their trailer town. The Marsh promises that the show will provide "trailer park insight." Which leads one to wonder what exactly is trailer park insight? How to stretch a six-pack long into the night? The many uses of fluffer-nutter? Why Jell-O is a complete meal? Or something a little deeper? Audience members are encouraged to bring a garage sale item to the show to barter with cast member. So not only be entertained, but get rid of some junk at *Trailer Town*. The Marsh, 1074 Valencia Street, August 11 through September 17, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. For more information call 415-826-5750 or visit [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

## Go Go Gomez

In San Francisco theater Margo Gomez is a big name. Now she brings us *Los Big Names*, her new one-woman show. This Latina lesbian tracks the big dreams of a Latino family of three, much like her own, as they pursue fame and loosen their family ties through two eras. Juxtaposing her own doomed role in Barry Levinson's sci-fi flop *Sphere* with the aspirations of her Cuban comedian father and Puerto Rican dancer mother, Gomez asks the question: In a family of struggling stars, what lights up? Gomez explores the dueling themes of family and the urge to perform. As anyone who has heard that the budding comic or actor first learnt to do voices at the dinner table to keep his or her parents laughing rather than fighting, it is clear that the space of performance and the home hearth are inextricably linked. See Margo Gomez *Los Big Names*, at The Magic Theatre, at Fort Mason, through September 8. For tickets, info, an how to get there from here, call 415-441-8822.

## Get to Know Munro

Word for Word continues its series of free performances of short stories with Alice Munro's *The Turkey Season*. Munro, often called the Canadian Chekhov, is known for her sharply drawn tales of women and families, isolation and longing. *The Turkey Season* tells the story of a woman remembering her first job gutting turkeys as she investigates the secrets and underlying passions of the adults working around her — the community of gutters, pluckers, and slaughterers in a turkey processing warehouse. The story will be brought to life under the direction of Stephanie Hunt at the Mechanics Institute, 57 Post Street, on August 8 at 7 p.m. And yes, as stated above, the show is free. All the more reason to get to know Munro.



## Transmigration

*Transmigration* culls together old and new, solo and group performances from past AfroSolo festivals and Cultural Odyssey's twenty-five years. Performers include The Living Memory Project, Idris Ackamoor, Opal Reese, Ise Lyfe, and The Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women. These performers range in style and technique. Ise Lyfe is an Oakland native and spoken-word poet. Opal Reese is a performer whose credentials include a Ph.D. in Directing and Critical Theory from Stanford. Idris Ackamoor is a saxophonist and tap dancer who explores the lineage between the traditional African griot and the modern day jazzman. The Medea Project is an award-winning group that works with incarcerated women. To see this diverse group of performers and performances see *Transmigration* at the African American Art and Culture Complex, 762 Fulton Street. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, August 18-20, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, August 21 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12-15 and can be purchased by calling 415-292-1850 or visiting [www.culturalodyssey.org](http://www.culturalodyssey.org)



## Virgin Pirate?

Brava brings us musical satire to close out the summer. A question we all ask — *Where are we going in the World?* — takes on new and complex meanings in the peaceful community of Cozy Corners. An evil virgin pirate, a sweet young maiden, her love Sheriff Ply, not to mention Aunt Anne from outer space, all join together in this musical farce. Song, dance, and silliness ensue at the Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th Street. The show starts Friday, August 5 and continues through Saturday, August 27. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10-20 and can be purchased by calling 415-647-2822 or by visiting [www.brava.org](http://www.brava.org).

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## Governor's Politics of Deception Carries Heavy Price

(Continued from Page 3)

over spending cuts, the governor met with senior citizens to let them know that if his measures did not pass, his Democratic opponents would rescind Proposition 13, raise their property taxes and take away their homes.

Aside from the complete deception of such antics, it is important to recognize the greater damage being done here. Potential future discussions and review of Prop 13's long-term impact on our state's finances and education system are at risk. By fabricating a concern over an unrelated issue, provoking anger and anxiety, the governor believes he can mobilize voters to the polls Nov. 8. Sadly, if he succeeds, the lesson to all elected officials in this state will be that any rational consideration of our system of taxation will be taken at their own peril. That would be too high a price to pay. Sell fear to the voters, instill fear in those elected? Is this

the definition of leadership in the 21st century?

California still exists as a repository of dreams and aspirations for millions of individuals. As our state's population continues to balloon over the next decades, there will be unprecedented challenges to our infrastructures of education, health care, transportation, housing, water and energy. Visionary leaders who can decipher the answers to complex equations will be needed. We will need leaders who can instill hope as well as trust. Through deception and cynicism we will only falter. Whether in Washington or Sacramento, purveyors of disinformation are not serving the people. They know it and — judging by recent polls — the people know it, too.

To contact Assemblyman Mark Leno's San Francisco District Office call 415-557-3013 or e-mail him directly at [Assemblymember.Leno@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Leno@asm.ca.gov)

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# Free Music Showcase

Audio industry leader the Bose Corporation is sponsoring a music showcase at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street, on Friday, August 5 from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. This event is free and open to all ages.

Featured performers will be Tony Sarno (guitarist for Blood Sweat and Tears) and Melvin Seals (keyboardist for The Jerry Garcia Band) along with Potrero Hill's Prophet Soul. These artists will be performing through the new Bose Personalized Amplification System which is based on one unique concept: a speaker system that is placed behind the performer and provides sound for both the stage and audience. These unusual speakers project sound very evenly across the stage and into the audience with volume levels that are consistent throughout the venue. Musicians who would like to try the system for themselves are invited to arrive at 6 p.m. and Bose representatives will be on hand to answer questions.

The following evening, Saturday, August 6 at 10 p.m., the show will move down the hill to the Connecticut Yankee at 100 Connecticut Street. There will be a \$7 cover for those 21 years and over.

For more information, visit the Bose website [www.bose.com/musicians](http://www.bose.com/musicians) or call Chris at 415-307-0620. For information about the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, call 415-826-8080.

—Chris Martin

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## Under Cover: The (con)Temporary Landscape Photographs by Henrik Kam at Klein's Deli

A series of color photographs of the rapidly changing Mission Bay area by Potrero Hill artist Henrik Kam will be on display at Klein's Deli, 501 Connecticut Street at 20th, through the months of August and September. There will be a reception for the artist on Friday, August 19 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. with wine, hors d'oeuvres and conversation.

Other photographs by Kam have recently been displayed in the windows of Big Think Studios on 18th Street between Missouri and Connecticut.

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## Images of the Hill

Three of these photographs appear in *Images of America: San Francisco's Potrero Hill* by Peter Linenthal, Abigail Johnston, and the Potrero Hill Archives Project, published by Arcadia and due at Christopher's Books (and Other Fine Venues) sometime mid-August.

The photo on the right didn't make the cut — the authors had photos of horsedrawn wagons on unpaved streets coming out their ears. But they still like it very much; does anybody know the location?



Above: Artist and newspaperman Lionel Lewis Edwards painted this oil, titled "Potrero Hill," sometime in the 1920s. But we still don't know just *where* on the Hill Edwards set up his easel to capture this sun-dappled scene.



Right: The Grateful Dead in 1968, taking a break from rehearsing at the defunct New Potrero Theater, 18th and Connecticut. From left to right: Phil Lesh, Bill Kreutzmann, Jerry Garcia, Bob Weir, and Mickey Hart. Malcolm Lubiner photo; courtesy of Michael Ochs Archives; permission granted by Grateful Dead Productions, Inc.



Ralph Wilson took this interior view of the 119-year-old Union Iron Works machine shop building, near 20th and Illinois, shortly after the building was "mothballed" in 2003. Currently many ideas are floating about for the development of the Pier 70 neighborhood and the renovation of its historic structures.

# Potrero Hill Community BBQ On August 20

By Mike Lin

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a non-profit organization that works to conserve land for people in order to improve the quality of life in communities nationwide. Over the past thirty years, TPL has created, protected, or restored more than 125 special places in the nine Bay Area counties alone. Its Bay Area Community Parks and Playgrounds Program focuses on revitalizing existing parks in low income, resource-challenged urban communities. One project they have identified since early 2005, is the lower playground of Potrero Hill Park which is located just north of the Potrero Hill Recreation Center on Arkansas St -- ground breaking is expected to happen in 2006.

Everett James, a community relations program manager, has recently begun efforts to ensure that the community is heavily involved in all stages of this project. He has introduced himself to the Potrero Boosters, and has asked for input about the park from neighborhood kids participating in summer programs at the Neighborhood House. Part of his outreach efforts have revolved around working with the community to identify needs and develop strategies for park use that will be both sustainable and positive for the neighborhood.

Through conversations with contacts he's made over the past three months, Everett has been made aware of the desire for more jobs, educational opportunities,

and stronger relationships amongst the diverse communities divided by the park. Everett has had preliminary discussions with the San Francisco Conservation Corps, who maintain public housing parks and landscaping, to discuss their mutual interests in recruiting young people from the neighborhood to help maintain the park.

For the first efforts around community bridge building, Everett is organizing a community BBQ/mixer at the park, taking place from noon to 6 pm on Saturday, August 20. The event is free, and all residents of Potrero Hill are invited to attend.

The event will feature live music, entertainment for all ages, food, and an opportunity to mingle with folks in the neighborhood. Useful information about the value of parks, living healthy, and community building will also be available.

The Potrero Hill Community Arts Project will host an arts table at the event, where neighbors can collaborate together or work individually on art pieces for the project. The goal of this organization is to foster community through the creation of a collaborative arts piece reflecting the diversity of Potrero Hill. The final piece will be displayed at the Neighborhood House on September 16th.

Updated details about the BBQ will be available at [www.potrerohillsf.com](http://www.potrerohillsf.com)

*Mike Lin, a visual designer for Yahoo!, lives at the top of the Hill, near the soon-to-be-dismantled water tower. He is a frequent contributor to PotreroHillSF.com.*



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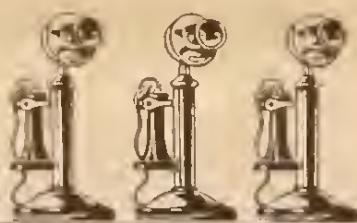
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**RUNAWAY VAN ON ARKANSAS STREET**

On Tuesday morning, July 19, a van, which had been parked on Arkansas Street between 19th and 20th, somehow became unparked. It careened down Arkansas, crossed 19th Street, and came to a stop after crashing into — and uprooting — a power pole. Nobody was hurt during the course of the van's wild ride but electricity in the neighborhood was interrupted and two cars were totaled.

Marjorie Hill photo

**'Better Neighborhoods Plus'- How Planning Should Work**

(Continued from Page 2)

In order to simplify the approval of projects that comply with the new zoning, it is important to reduce the number of Conditional Uses allowed in an area. Currently there are more than 100 "allowed," but Conditional Uses in San Francisco's Planning Code. By intelligently reviewing uses, many could simply be disallowed in the new neighborhood plan. A neighborhood could eliminate such uses as liquor stores, massage parlors, power plants, large supermarkets, night clubs, and so on, during the planning process while identifying others as conditional, which would continue to be subject to the same Conditional Use hearings that now occur. What works for one neighborhood may not work for another.

The Discretionary Review (DR) process is clarified within a completed plan area, but none of the appeal practices or compliance with design guidelines or the City General Plan are reduced or eliminated by the legislation. A DR is a process through which citizens ask the Planning Commission to review a project PRIOR to the issuance of a permit. Some applications automatically require a DR by the Commission, such as demolition of housing; this legislation does not weaken that practice.

There is often confusion between DRs and Permit Appeals. A DR is filed prior to the issuance of a permit. Notice of permit applications are distributed to the surrounding areas. This gives the neighbors the ability to discuss the application with the area city planner and the project applicant. Many issues are worked

out at this stage. When a permit is granted, the neighbors can file for a permit appeal. The legislation does not modify DR in the case of demolition, or in areas of the city not included with a newly adopted neighborhood plan area.

There is an urgency to see this legislation passed so that the elements applicable to ongoing planning can be incorporated in the Eastern Neighborhoods plans, already in progress.

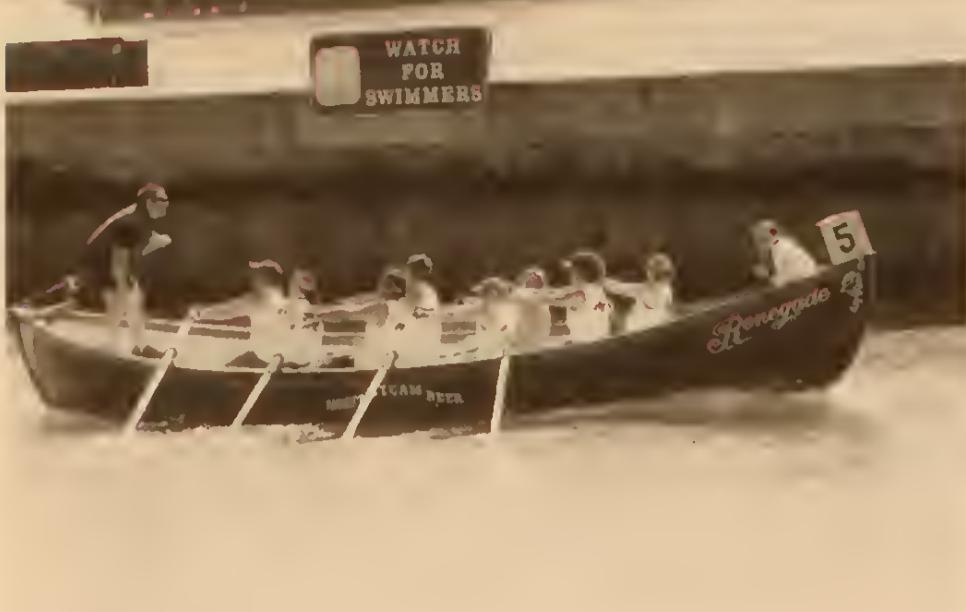
At the beginning of the year, Supervisor Maxwell introduced Interim Controls for the Showplace Square area to give the Planning Department time to complete the area plan. Those controls, by state law can only be in place for one year. In order to collect fees for public benefits, the impacts and mitigation fees must be included in the overall rezoning, which is not currently mandated. Passing the Better Neighborhood Planning and Implementation Process, will subject the Central Waterfront and Showplace Square to the public benefits mandated in this legislation.

The Planning Commission is currently taking public comment and reviewing the legislation. They will forward modifications to the Board of Supervisors' Land Use Committee, which will hold a public hearing in September before sending their recommendations to the full Board for passage.

The Draft Ordinance and the Planning Department report can be viewed at [www.sfgov.org/site/planning\\_index.asp](http://www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp).

*Joe Boss lives in Dogpatch and is a neighborhood activist who worked with many other citizens to help draft this legislation.*





Members of the Embarcadero Rowing Club in their 26-foot rowboat the *Renegade*.

## Embarcadero Rowing Club Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

You've probably seen them around, at the Ramp restaurant, in Aquatic Park, in the Oakland Estuary, and hanging out in McCovey Cove: the rowers in the dark blue rowboat with the Anchor Steam Beer logo on the side. That's the Embarcadero Rowing Club (ERC), the proud owner of the *Renegade*, a 26-foot rowboat sponsored by Anchor Brewing.

In June the "Renegades" of the ERC participated in the annual Alcatraz Race which started at Alcatraz Island amidst strong current and wind and finished at the entrance to Aquatic Park. With the men's boat taking first place and the women's boat taking second, they both repeated as the 2005 men's and women's overall champions for the Bay Area Whaleboat Rowing Association. The co-ed team took second place at Alcatraz and second for the overall championship.

The *Renegade* is a Monomoy hull design (a whaleboat) that seats eight rowers (the engine), has a stern deck for the coxswain (steers the boat), and a bowhook (the motivator). The rowers use heavy sweep oars to row a heavy (2,000 lb.) boat

very, very slowly, competing against other members of the Bay Area Whaleboat Rowing Association. The *Renegade* is docked at the S.F. Boatworks (next to The Ramp restaurant) in the Central Basin.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of ERC, a nonprofit club open to everyone, regardless of experience or ability. It is a community-minded group and has sponsored events such as Row for Blind Youth, and done fundraising for charities.

All prospective members are welcome to try it for one month at no charge. Row with regular members on Tuesday evenings at 6:45 p.m., or Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. and learn the hard way about winds, currents, and tides — good science and great exercise. Summer is the best time to come give it a try. After that, dues are \$100 per season, or \$180 per year.

The racing seasons are spring (from March through June) and fall (September and October); during racing seasons teams will practice 2-3 times a week.

For more information about ERC visit [www.rowrenegade.org](http://www.rowrenegade.org) or call 415-289-6661.

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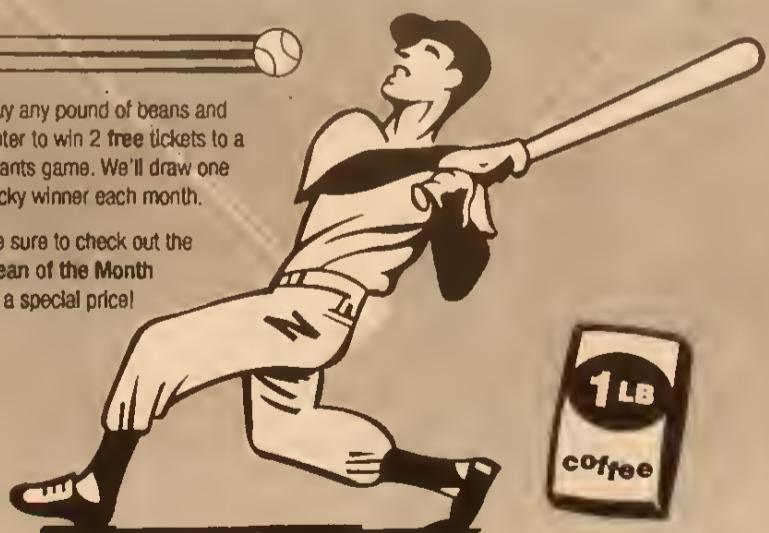
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## Downtown Businesses' Quick Response Could Help City Avoid Catastrophic Electric Outages

By Liz Enochs

Neighborhood Environmental Newswire

Pat Ware got the e-mail at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday morning in July. Could he cut his energy use by 1 p.m. that same day?

After the test-run he'd conducted the day before, that was no problem. The director of engineering for the Four Seasons building at 757 Market Street raised the thermostat by two degrees, shut down parts of the ventilation system that wouldn't inconvenience guests, and turned-off one of the building's six elevators. He figures those measures saved as much as 180 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power about that many homes.

"We committed to about a 10 percent reduction in demand on PG&E resources on days of peak (power) demand," said Ware. "This is all about using energy wisely."

The 37-story building is one of 35 mostly office and hotel buildings in San Francisco that agreed to cut their electricity use on days of high power demand as part of a six-month pilot initiative. Approved by the California Public Utility Commission in January, the program is run jointly by PG&E and the Energy Coalition, a Southern California-based nonprofit that helps electricity users develop energy-management plans.

Participants — including Golden Gate University, Hilton Hotel, Transamerica building, and the U.S. Postal Service — in the \$2.5 million program have agreed to collectively reduce their electricity use by as much as 10 megawatts on high-demand days.

"If you can come up with large groups that can drop energy uses at peak times, your need for more power plants goes down," said Business Energy Coali-

tion program manager Leanne Hoadley.

As power use surges, California's electricity demand may exceed supply in some parts of the state as soon as this year, according to a report issued jointly by the California Public Utilities and Energy Commissions. Instead of boosting supply by spending hundreds of millions of dollars to build new "peaker" power plants, programs such as the Business Energy Coalition aim instead to curb electricity demand.

"We expect to be a model that will be duplicated with other large utilities in the state," said Hoadley. "This is not a whole solution, but it's part of a solution." Each participant had to agree to cut power use by between 50 and 500 kilowatts on high-demand days on as little as an hour's notice.

Although the program pays customers to participate, that wasn't the primary incentive for most of the facilities that signed-up, said Hoadley. "I had to almost hide my surprise" at how positively customers responded when approached about the pilot, she said.

"We signed up for it because it's a good thing to do," said Brian Mork, director of engineering at the Hilton Hotel. "We're just trying to be a good neighbor."

So was the U.S. Postal Service, which has enrolled a downtown administrative building, as well as its processing and distribution center in Bayview-Hunters Point. "A power plant is right there and is polluting the air," said Ray Levinson, manager of USPS environmental compliance for the Pacific region. "If enough buildings participate and cut back, they'll be able to shut that plant down."

At \$50 per kilowatt, the program's payments for energy reduction are not a big incentive, he said. "If we did what we were supposed to do, we may have earned

(Continued on Page 18)



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## Recovering from a Mission of Mercy



The U.S. Naval hospital ship, *USNS Mercy*, is in dry dock at San Francisco Pier 70 through August for an overhaul after several months of tsunami relief work along the islands of Indonesia and East Timor. The ship's crew of Navy personnel, nonmilitary mariners, and more than 200 volunteer civilian doctors and nurses provided aid and medical care to thousands of impoverished Indonesians after the Indian Ocean tsunamis of December 26, 2004. Next month's View takes a look at the ship and its involvement in the aftermath of one of the most deadly natural disasters in recorded history.

John Borg photo



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## GOP Pattern of Abuse in House Is Damaging Our Democracy

(Continued from Page 5)

For six months, Republicans shut down ethics enforcement in the House of Representatives through partisan rule changes before finally agreeing to follow the rules of the House that require the Ethics Committee have a non-partisan professional staff.

Two years ago, the name of a clandestine operative at the CIA was revealed by White House staff trying to discredit Ambassador Joseph Wilson. This traitorous act was another attempt to silence those who voice disagreement with the White House. Disclosing the identity of a CIA officer is a deadly serious matter, but just as Congressional Republicans have failed to hold the Bush Administration account-

able on serious matters such as the Iraq war, Abu Ghraib, and the budget, and they have refused to fulfill the oversight responsibility and hold hearings.

When elected officials wield power not for the public good, but to amass even greater power, they damage our democracy. That is exactly what these most recent abuses of power are doing.

In Congress, for us to truly represent the people we serve, all members must be allowed to bring the concerns of their constituents to the table. That will help us create an America that is worthy of the vision of our Founding Fathers.

Contact Nancy Pelosi's S.F. District Office at 415-556-4862 or email her directly at sf.nancy@mail.house.gov

## Downtown Businesses' Could Help City Avoid Electric Outages

(Continued from Page 16)

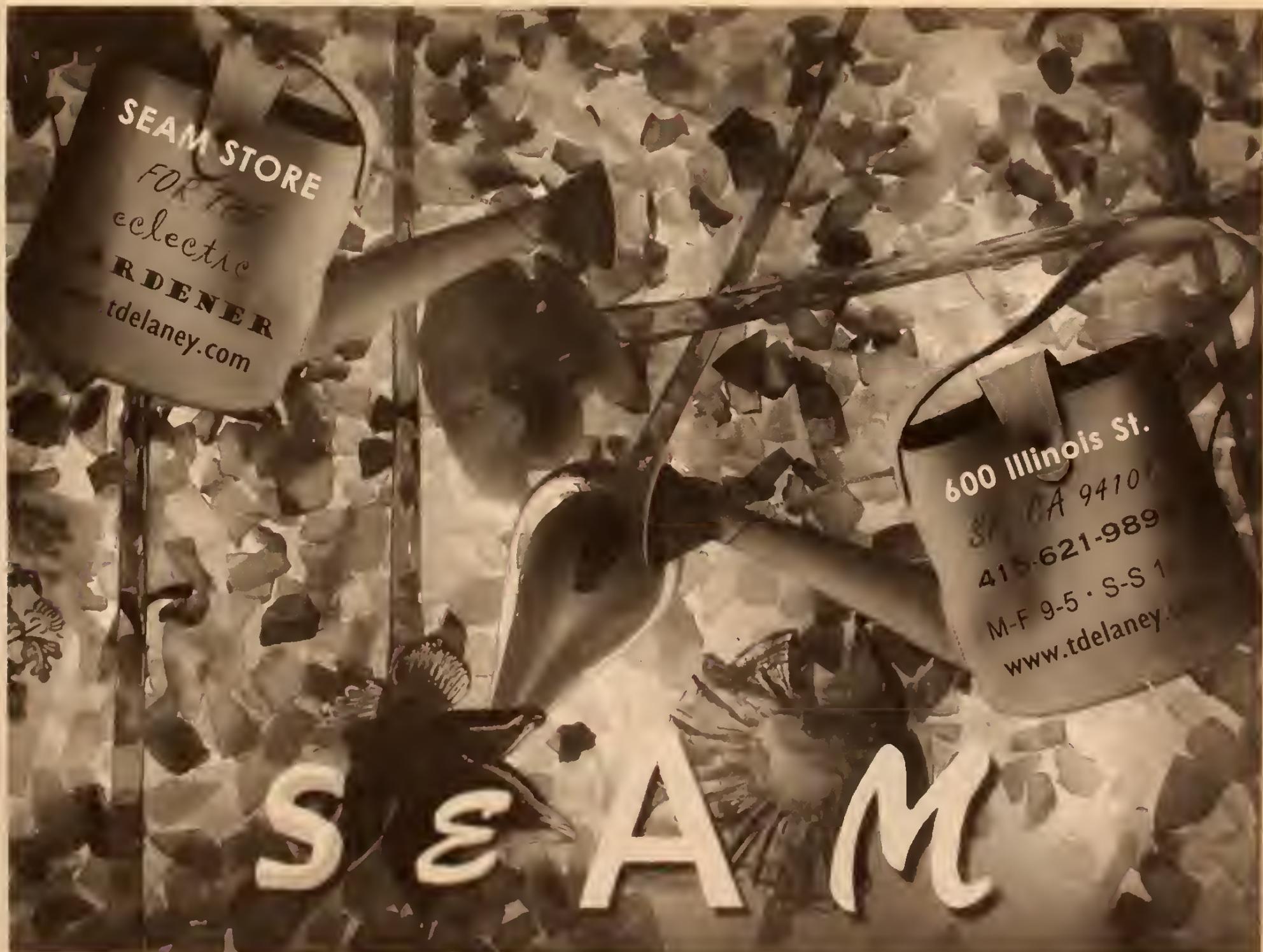
\$400 yesterday. We spend a million dollars a year on electricity for each site, so it's not going to change our bill much."

Two other elements helped sell participants, Hoadley said: the expensive real-time metering devices the program installed for free, and the evaluation by specially-trained engineers of ways each building could lower energy use and costs. "That's thousands of dollars worth of engineering that lots of them have had to pay for (before signing up for the program)," she said.

Program success depends on the participants effectively reducing the promised

10 megawatts when called upon. If the Coalition doesn't deliver, it'll have to reimburse the utility for the cost to purchase the electricity necessary to make up the shortfall, using money from a \$250,000 fund set aside for that purpose. But to reduce the risk of that happening the pilot was crafted so that if, for instance, the Hilton is hosting a major convention and can't cut back its air-conditioning, other buildings in the program can use a bit less to make up the difference.

"If some buildings can't curtail their portion that they promised, other sites can make up the slack," said Levinson. "The whole partnership sort of sinks or swims together."



# Identity Theft

(Continued from Page 5)

## Protecting Yourself from Identity Theft

Here are five tips—remember the letter "S":

**Seal Your Lips.** Never give your Social Security number or any personal information of any kind over the telephone or online.

**Secure.** Make sure all personal information at home is not left out where someone could get a hold of it. Sometimes you have outsiders come into your home to do repairs.

Make sure your mailbox is secured where no one can reach in and remove your mail. Put all outgoing mail in a collection box, not in your mailbox for the mail carrier to pick up.

When you are using an ATM, use your other hand to block the view of the pin number you are entering. There are people "shoulder surfing" to get your number.

**Shred.** Do not throw bank and check statements, cancelled checks, pre-approved check offers, and bills with account information in the trash. There are people who are 'dumpster divers,' who go through your trash to get all the above items with your personal information. Shred all unwanted materials containing sensitive personal information.

**Scams.** Watch out for lottery, e-mail, and telemarketing scams you are asked to provide for personal information. If it sounds too good to be true, it is!

When you are at the airport trying to get your plane ticket, you are asked to put

your credit card in the computer. Be aware of strangers offering to help—they swipe a card through the computer to get your credit card number.

**Scrutinize.** Check your credit card statements carefully. Get a copy of your credit card report annually.

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1. Make a police report.
2. Report it to all three credit agencies: Equifax at 1-888-766-0008 or [www.Equifax.com](http://www.Equifax.com)
3. Experian at 1-888-397-3742 or [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
4. Trans Union at 1-800-680-7289 or [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)
5. The credit agencies will send you a free copy of your credit report.
6. Notify your bank.
7. Contact the Social Security Administration to report unauthorized use of personal information. The Fraud Hotline is 1-800-269-0271.
8. Notify the issuer of each credit card you carry.
9. Notify the Department of Motor Vehicles. Check if any unauthorized license number has been issued in your name.
10. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

Ask for a copy of "ID Theft: When Bad Things Happen in Your Good Name," a free guide that will help you recover from your theft and guard against future thefts.

-Hotline: 1-877-ID-THEFT

-TDD: 1-202-326-5205

-Visit [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft).

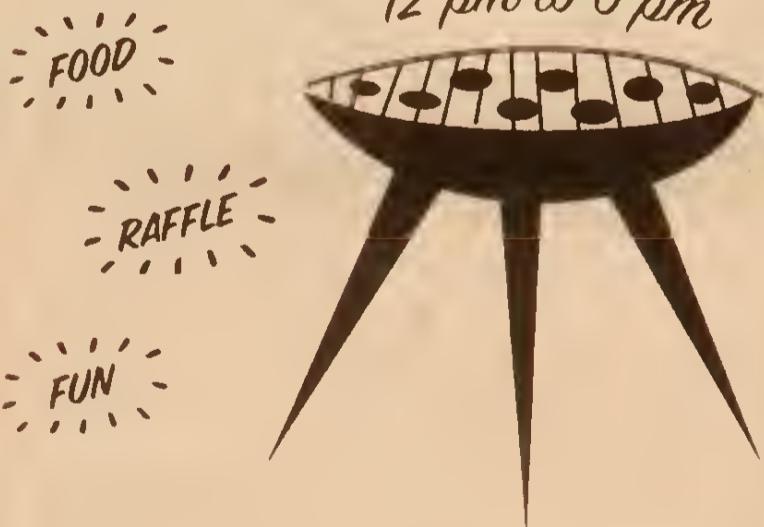
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## Human Beings Are a Minority in Our Wild City by the Bay

By Daniel Porras

Neighborhood Environmental Newswire

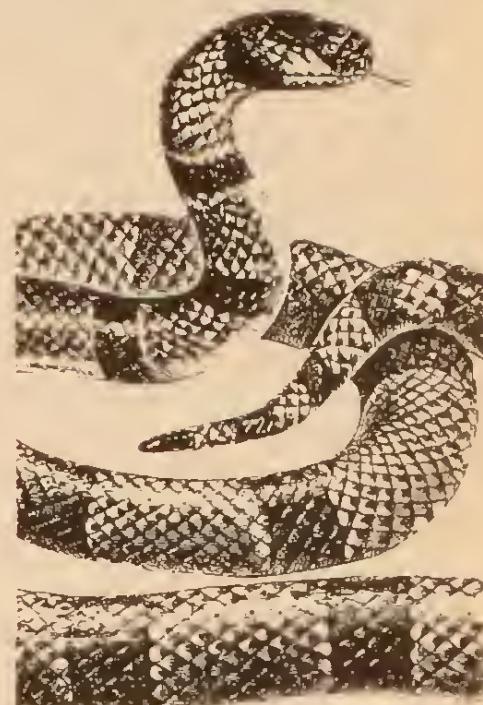
From fungi to insects to rats, birds and coyotes, Josiah Clark knows about life in the city. San Francisco is not just a concrete human habitat, he says, but a thriving urban ecosystem "with a highly-stratified food chain." As the ecologist who wrote the wildlife management plan for San Francisco's small urban parks, Clark is well-attuned to our city's wild web of life. And when it comes to the creatures of San Francisco, he'll tell you, humans are definitely a minority.

At just under 800,000 people, San Francisco is the second most densely populated city in the U.S., after New York. But how many other creatures share out seven-by-seven mile urban peninsula?

"There's likely more insects in one acre of land in the Presidio than there are humans in the entire city," says Clark, who talks about bugs mainly as a food source for birds - his favorite animals. Clark gives bird tours of the city and says that he once logged 122 different bird species on one bicycle tour of San Francisco County. On a busy spring day "there's at least as many birds as people in the city, probably more."

No one has done an animal census of San Francisco, so no one knows for sure how many critters share our space. However, using statistics compiled by the American Veterinary Medical Association, SF Animal Care and Control director Carl Friedman estimates that San Francisco is home to around 120,394 dogs. "And they all live in my neighborhood in Potrero Hill," he quips. As for felines, which Friedman says are "more of a companion

of choice" in San Francisco, the ACC estimates that there are roughly three cats for every dog. Give or take several thousand, that adds up to 480,000 cats and dogs in the city which, collectively, must house an impressive number of fleas. And each flea, as Jonathan Swift famously noted, "hath smaller fleas that on him prey; and these have smaller still to bite 'em; and so proceed ad infinitum."



Offering "conflict resolution services for people and the wild animals sharing their space," Urban Wildlife Management owner Alan Merrifield has worked closely with San Francisco's wild creatures for more than thirty years. He gets calls from people with skunks and snakes in their

(Continued on Page 21)

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## Human Beings Are a Minority in Our Wild City by the Bay

(Continued from Page 20)

kitchens, for example, or visits homes with sagging ceilings saturated with raccoon urine. According to Merrifield, the party gets started when the sun goes down. "While we're sleeping, they are out there doing their thing," he says of San Francisco's non-human denizens: bats, gophers, moles, ground squirrels, crows, starlings, seagulls, pigeons, feral cats, garter snakes, mice; even an alligator in Golden Gate Park. And don't forget the rats. "Oh we got rats," Merrifield laughs, "about one per person."

But the city's animals aren't all pests. Margaret Boeger of the California Academy of Sciences rattles off a list of native species found in San Francisco: Red-eared slider turtles, the endangered Western garter snake, rare chorus frogs, foxes, coyotes, deer, California quail, blue belly lizards, salamanders and newts. These mostly indigenous species are what ecologist Josiah Clark calls *specialist* species. They've evolved alongside native plants and insects, and are extremely sensitive to changes in their natural environments. City parks, gardens and yards create a patch-work habitat for these natives.

On the other hand, pests and rodents like ravens and rats, says Clark, are *generalists*,

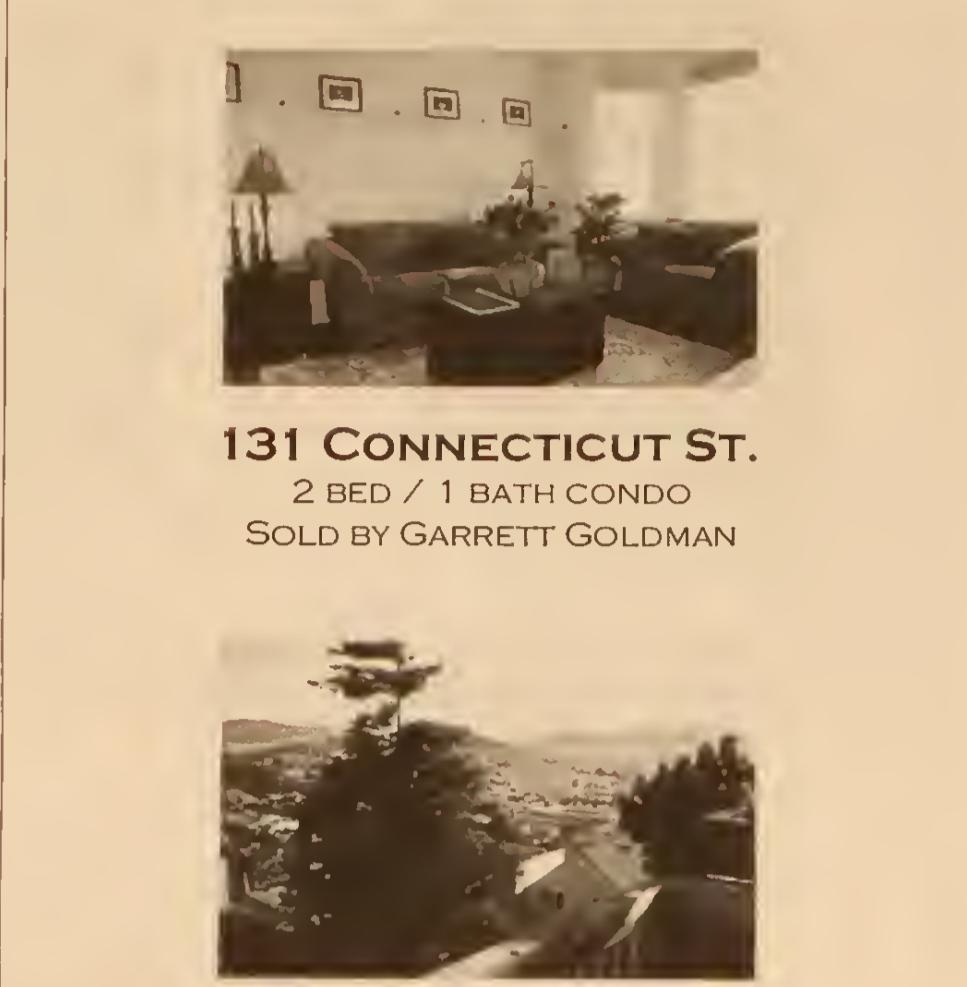
which means they adapt quickly to different environments and can utilize any resource. When humans pave over habitat, it's the generalists that thrive. These animals "are very resourceful, and very athletic, and have no problem at all getting into most people's homes," says Alan Merrifield.

With populations of non-native, generalist species booming around the Bay Area, "it is in our best interest to keep native wildlife in the city," says Josiah Clark.

Coyotes, for example, keep rodent populations in check. Bats eat not only deer mice, which can carry deadly Hanta virus, but mosquitoes, which transmit West Nile virus.

City dwellers, ironically, often reintroduce specialist species to control outbreaks of animals whose predators have been displaced by the city. SF Parks officials brought native owls to Golden Gate Park, for example, to deal with a booming gopher population.

"But the gopher isn't bad," says Clark, "they're like little ecosystem engineers, turning over the soil, taking nutrients from underneath to the surface. Then the worms appear after the soil is turned over, and the robins come to eat the worms on top of the gopher piles. So it really is all connected."



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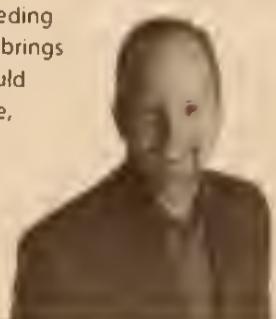
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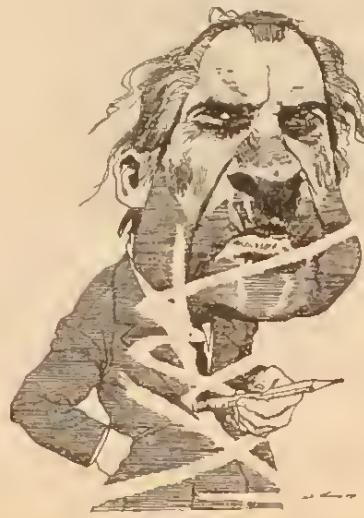
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Happy Birthday . . .

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY: Anchor Steam's first brew at Mariposa Street (1979), Lenny Anderson, Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong (1900), Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima (8/6/1945), Rosamonde Bagan, James Baldwin (1924), Shauna & Kevin Barlif, Sue Bierman, Bonza Bottler Day (8/8), Bill Clinton, Count Basie (1904), Civil Rights March on Washington (1963), Phil DeAndrade, Larry Duling, Larry Duley, Kirk Cunningham Fujimoto, Nancy Fox, Jerry Garcia (1942), First televised Major League baseball games (1939), Bill Goff, Larry Gonick, Tipper Gore, Jon Greenberg, Lewis James Griffith, Max Hartstein, C.J. Hirshfield, "Magic" Johnson, Kim Joyce, Ellie Katz, Miriam Kaye, Julie Kavanagh, Brian Kesslet, Marvin Kurtz, Kazuhiro Makira, Enola Maxwell (1919), John McGill, Flicka McGurin, The Queen Mum (1900), Emilia Newcomb spontaneously combusts walking to a party (1958), Nixon resigns presidency (1974), Charlie "Bird" Parker (1920), Particularly Preposterous Packaging Day, Cathey Passin, Pegasus — a true porket — wins Yippie nomination for president (1968), Carolyn, Cesar & Daniel Perez, Ambur Rector, Malvina Reynolds (1900), Paul Sarvis, William Saroyan (1908), Social Security Act (1935), Camisha & Suhayla Suliman, Julie Savilla, Tisha B'Av (8/3), Warden Johnson greets the new inmates at Alcatraz (1934), Women's Equality Day (26th), Emiliano Zapata (1879).